

burden for the Examiner to search the species of Figures 4 to 6 along with the species of Figures 7 and 8. Applicant has canceled the claims directed to the species of Figures 1 to 3. All of the remaining claims, including both independent claims 34 and 42, read on the species of Figures 4 to 6.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and allowance of pending claims 11, 12, 17, 18, 26, 27 and 30 to 63.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

11. (Amended) An irrigation probe according to claim [9] 43, wherein the tubular body has an outer diameter ranging from about 0.50 inch to about 0.70 inch.

12. (Amended) An irrigation probe according to claim [9] 43, wherein the tubular body has an inner diameter ranging from about 0.40 inch to about 0.60 inch.

17. (Amended) An irrigation probe according to claim [7] 34, wherein the probe body has a length ranging from about 3.5 inches to about 12 inches.

18. (Amended) An irrigation probe according to claim [7] 34, wherein the probe body has a length ranging from about 5 inches to about 10 inches.

26. (Amended) [An irrigation probe] A method according to claim [7] 56, wherein the generally rigid probe body comprises:

tubing having proximal and distal ends and first and second lumens extending therethrough, wherein the electrode is mounted at the distal end of the tubing; [and]

a stiffening wire having proximal and distal ends that extends through the second lumen of the tubing; and

[wherein the] an infusion tube that extends at least a part of the way through the first lumen of the tubing, wherein the distal end of the infusion tube is in fluid communication with the inner cavity of the [electrode] irrigation tube.

27. (Amended) [An irrigation probe] A method according to claim 26, wherein the stiffening wire is made of a malleable material.

30. (Amended) [An irrigation probe] A method according to claim [26] 56, wherein the probe body has a length ranging from about 3.5 inches to about 12 inches.

31. (Amended) [An irrigation probe] A method according to claim [26] 56, wherein the probe body has a length ranging from about 5 inches to about 10 inches.

32. (Amended) [An irrigation probe] A method according to claim [26] 56, wherein the probe body has a length ranging from about 7 inches to about 8 inches.

33. (Amended) A method for treating atrial fibrillation in a patient comprising:
opening the heart of the patient; and
ablating at least one linear lesion in the heart tissue using an irrigation probe as recited in claim [8] 34.